

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2134

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 2837

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP PDIP FI

SUBJECT: VISIT OF MRS. MONDALE TO FINLAND--PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

REF: (A) STATE 283936, (B) HELSINKI 2808

1. THREE PRESS EVENTS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM FOR THE VISIT OF MRS. MONDALE TO FINLAND DECEMBER 4-7. ADDITIONALLY, EMBASSY EXPECTS MAJOR NEWSPAPERS AND PRESS PHOTOS AGENCIES MAY ASSIGN PHOTOGRAPHERS TO COVER ARRIVAL OF U.S. DELEGATION. NO ARRIVAL STATEMENT IS NECESSARY, HOWEVER, AND WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY QUESTIONS AT AIRPORT.

2. TWO PRESS EVENTS WILL BE HANDLED BY SUOMEN KUVALEHTI (CIRC. 80,000), FINLAND'S PRESTIGIOUS WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE WHICH IS WIDELY READ HERE BY SENIOR PERSONS IN GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE INDUSTRY, ACADEMIA, AND THE ARTS. SUOMEN KUVALEHTI IS POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT AND HIGHLY RESPECTED FOR ACCURACY AND AUTHORITY. ITS FOREIGN COVERAGE IS GENERALLY EXCELLENT AND POSITIVE TOWARD U.S. POLICIES. DOMESTICALLY, THE MAGAZINE OFTEN LEADS THE DISCUSSION REGARDING FINNISH FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES.

3. SUOMEN KUVALEHTI WILL INTERVIEW MRS. MONDALE ON MONDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 5, AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. THE SECOND EVENT WHICH THE MAGAZINE WILL
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COVER WILL BE MRS. MONDALE'S VISIT TO THE ARABIA FACTORY ON WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 7. THESE TWO EVENTS WILL BE COMBINED INTO A SINGLE MAJOR PIECE TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE ISSUE WHICH APPEARS THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 12. THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW WILL BE WIDE-RANGING INCLUDING MRS. MONDALE'S IMPRESSIONS OF FINLAND, HER COMMENTS ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, HER VIEWS ON THE U.S.--FINNISH RELATIONSHIP, HER EXPERIENCES AS AN AMERICAN POLITICAL WIFE, AND, PARTICULARLY, HER VIEWS ON AMERICAN ART AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ART AND POLITICS.

4. IN ADDITION TO THESE TWO EVENTS, MRS. MONDALE WILL HAVE BRIEF MEETING OVER COFFEE WITH CORRESPONDENTS REPRESENTING U.S. MEDIA FOLLOWING SUOMEN KUVALEHTI INTERVIEW. PARTICIPANTS WILL BE MR. PHILIP STONE, UPI BUREAU CHIEF FOR NORDIC COUNTRIES; MR. RISTO MAENPAA, AP BUREAU CHIEF IN HELSINKI, AND MS. MARTHA GABER, ABC RADIO STRINGER HERE. THIS WILL BE INFORMAL ON-THE-RECORD INTERVIEW COVERING - MORE BRIEFLY - SIMILAR SUBJECTS MENTIONED PARA 3 ABOVE WITH EXPECTATION THESE STORIES WILL BE FILED FOR AMERICAN CLIENTS.

5. AS PRESIDENT CARTER'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AT THE CEREMONIES MARKING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY, MRS. MONDALE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DESCRIBE THE SOUNDNESS AND CORDIALITY OF THE U.S.-FINNISH RELATIONSHIP, TO INDICATE HER AWARENESS OF FINLAND'S UNIQUE INTERNATIONAL STATURE INCLUDING ITS ROLE IN UN PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS, THE LONG HISTORY OF PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONTACTS BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES (INCLUDING CONTRIBUTION OF FINNISH IMMIGRANTS TO AMERICAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT), FINLAND'S TRADITION IN ARTS AND DESIGN, AND THE

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IMPORTANCE WHICH THE U.S. ATTACHES TO THE CONTINUED INDEPENDENCE AND NEUTRALITY OF THE FINNISH NATION. IT WOULD BE UNUSUAL IF MRS. MONDALE WERE TO BE ASKED INAPPROPRIATE QUESTIONS. ALSO, WE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF SHE WERE ASKED TO COMMENT ON ASPECTS OF FINNISH INTERNAL EVENTS OR THE FINNISH FOREIGN POLICY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION. SHOULD THESE TOPICS BE RAISED, SHE SHOULD, OF COURSE, DECLINE TO ADDRESS THEM DIRECTLY BUT REFER INSTEAD TO U.S. RESPECT FOR THE RIGHT OF ALL COUNTRIES TO MAKE THEIR OWN FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS IN LIGHT OF THEIR NATIONAL SELF-INTEREST.

RIDGWAY

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